

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A document composition device, comprising:
a processor; and
a memory communicating with said processor and including a document storage area storing one or more electronic documents and a distance modifier routine, with said processor using said distance modifier routine to modify a separation distance between two particular text clusters in said electronic document to differentiate create a distinct document layout of said electronic document.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said two particular text clusters comprise two or more text blocks.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said two particular text clusters comprise two or more text paragraphs.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said two particular text clusters comprise two or more text lines.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said document storage area stores a plurality of electronic documents.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said distance modifier routine modifies said separation distance by a predetermined distance adjustment.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, with said memory further including a distance calculator routine that computes said separation distance.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, with said memory further including a layout comparing routine that compares a selected document layout to one or more pre-existing documents and generates an identical document layout output if said selected document layout is identical to a pre-existing document.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented document layout composition method, comprising the steps of:

determining a separation distance between a first text cluster and a second text cluster of an electronic document;

generating a distance adjustment; and

adjusting said separation distance of said electronic document by said distance adjustment to differentiate create a distinct document layout of said electronic document.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the determining, generating, and adjusting steps are performed for two or more text clusters in said electronic document.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the determining, generating, and adjusting steps are iteratively performed.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the adjusting step comprises adding said distance adjustment to said separation distance.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the adjusting step comprises subtracting said distance adjustment from said separation distance.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of determining whether said separation distance falls within a modifiable range.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein each of said first text cluster and second text cluster are single text lines.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said distance adjustment must be larger than a text line spacing and less than twice said text line spacing.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the preliminary step of comparing a layout of said electronic document to one or more pre-existing electronic documents, wherein the determining, generating, and adjusting steps are performed if said layout is identical to a pre-existing electronic document.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

comparing a new layout of said electronic document to said one or more pre-

existing documents;

undoing the adjusting step if said new layout is identical to a pre-existing

electronic document;

changing one or more modification parameters to form a new set of

modification parameters if said new layout is identical to a pre-existing electronic

document; and

repeating the determining, generating, and adjusting steps using said new set
of modification parameters to create another new layout of said electronic document
if said new layout is identical to a pre-existing electronic document.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented document layout

composition method, comprising the steps of:

comparing a layout of a particular electronic document to layouts of one or

more pre-existing electronic documents;

modifying one or more separation distances between text clusters of said
particular electronic document to create a differentiated electronic document if said
layout of said particular electronic document matches a layout of said layouts of one
or more pre-existing electronic documents;

comparing a layout of said modified electronic document to said layouts of
said one or more pre-existing electronic documents;

undoing said modifying of said one or more separation distances of said particular electronic document if said layout of said modified electronic document matches a layout of another pre-existing electronic document;

changing one or more modification parameters to form a new set of modification parameters if said layout of said modified electronic document matches said layout of another pre-existing electronic document; and

repeating the step of modifying and the step of comparing said layout of said modified electronic document to said layouts of said one or more pre-existing electronic documents using said new set of modification parameters to differentiate create a distinct document layout of said modified electronic document.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the modifying step further comprises the steps of:

computing a separation distance between a first text cluster and a second text cluster of an electronic document;

generating a distance adjustment; and

adjusting said separation distance of said electronic document by said distance adjustment.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the adjusting step comprises adding said distance adjustment to said separation distance.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the adjusting step comprises subtracting said distance adjustment from said separation distance.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of determining whether said separation distance falls within a modifiable range.
24. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said distance adjustment must be larger than a text line spacing and less than twice said text line spacing.